

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05

MC-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6089

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TS

SUBJECT: REVISED TUNISIAN AUGMENTATION PLAN

REF: A. TUNIS 5470 DTG 101302Z, SEPTEMBER 1975

B. STATE 241887 DTG 101045Z, OCT 75

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FURNISHED AS REQUESTED PARA 3
REFTEL TO EXPEDITE NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY COMMITTEE
(NDPC) ACTION ON GOT CHAPPARRAL REQUEST:

A. ASSESSMENT OF ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO
SECURITY OF THE US IF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION (CMI)
CHAPPARRAL SHOULD BE RELEASED TO TUNISIA: IN OUR VIEW,
THERE WOULD BE NO ACTUAL DAMAGE FROM SUCH A TRANSACTION,
AND THE PROSPECTS OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE ARE EXCEEDINGLY SLIM.
TUNISIA HAS BEEN A CLOSE AND VALUED "FRIEND" OF THE US OVER
THE YEARS AND HAS ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH WESTERN IDEALS AND
POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. DESPITE TUNISIA'S PUBLIC DECLAR-
ATIONS OF ATTACHMENT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-ALIGNMENT,
THESE DECLARATIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY EXPEDIENT, FOR TUNISIA
FUNDAMENTALLY OPPOSES COMMUNISM AND IS CONCERNED AT ANY
INDICATION OF SOVIET EXPANSIONISM IN THE AREA. TUNISIA'S
DECISION TO CONTINUE ITS PAST RELIANCE ON US AS A PRINCIPAL
SOURCE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATES ITS DESIRE TO
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MAINTAIN CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH US AND TO ADHERE TO

UNDERTAKINGS WHICH THAT IMPLIES. LARGE PROPORTION OF GOT MILITARY LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN TRAINED IN THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE AND RETAINS A PRO-US AND PRO-WEST ORIENTATION. GOT IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD PRESENCE OF SIXTH FLEET IN MEDITERRANEAN BECAUSE IT ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO PROTECTIVE COVER WHICH OUR FLEET PROVIDES. WHILE IT IS ALWAYS RISKY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD TO PREDICT THE FUTURE, PROSPECTS OF TUNISIA'S REMAINING STABLE AND PRO-WEST OVER THE COMING YEARS ARE EXCELLENT--AND CERTAINLY BETTER THAN IN CASE OF ANY OTHER NORTH AFRICAN NATION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE ESTIMATE AS LOW THE FUTURE CHANCE THAT TUNISIA MIGHT UTILIZE CMI CHAPPARREL IN SUCH A FASHION AS TO DO DAMAGE TO US SECURITY.

B. ASSESSMENT OF GOT'S INTENT AND CAPABILITY TO PROTECT ADEQUATELY US CMI: CLEAR INTENT OF TUNISIA IS TO ACQUIRE A MODEST SURFACT-TO-AIR MISSILE DEFENSE AS PROTECTION AGAINST ESSENTIALLY LIBYAN THREAT. THUS, IT IS PATENTLY IN TUNISIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST TO PROTECT ADEQUATELY US CMI IN ORDER NOT TO DEGRADE THIS CAPABILITY. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOT MOD IS HIGHLY SECURITY CONSCIOUS AND TAKES ADEQUATE MEASURES TO PROTECT ITS MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT FROM OUTSIDE ENCROACHMENT OR PENETRATION. THEREFORE, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT GOT HAS BOTH THE INTENTION AND THE CAPABILITY TO SAFEGUARD US CMI.

C. FUTURE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR CMI: ONLY POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR CMI WOULD BE FOR SIDEWINDER, TOW AND DRAGON MISSILES. REQUEST FOR SIDEWINDERS WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON DECISION TO ACQUIRE F5-E OR A4M AIRCRAFT, WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL 1976 OR 1977 (REFTEL A). ORIGINAL TUNISIAN AUGMENTATION PLAN INCLUDED TOW AND DRAGON ANTITANK MISSILES. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT MENTION OF ACQUIRING THESE MISSILES, THEY COULD STILL BE CONSIDERED FOR PRUCHASE IN FUTURE.

2. ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT THAT CURRENT GOT REQUIREMENT IS FOR A BRIEFING TEAM RATHER THAN A FULL-SCALE SURVEY TEAM. MINISTER OF DEFENSE KHEFACHA IS UNFAMILIAR WITH CHAPPARAL, BUT IS PREPARED TO "TAK A LOOK AT IT" PURSUANT TO
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AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION. HE NEEDS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS WEAPON AND HOW IT MIGHT SUBSTITUTE FOR HAWK IN AIR DEFENSE ROLE. BRIEFING THEAM SHOULD APPRECIATE LACK OF SOPHISTICATION OF TUNISIAN ARMED FORCES ON DESIGN OF A SAM DEFENSE. TUNISIAN ARMY HAS ONLY TWIN 40MM AND QUAD 50 AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS AND NO EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING IN DESIGN OF FIXED INSTALLATION SAM DEFENSE. BELIEVE PRESENT GOT CONCEPT OF AIR DEFENSE ENVISAGES DEFENSE OF STATEGIC

CENTER(S) SUCH AS TUNIS-CARTHAGE AIRPORT AND/OR SIDI AHMED MILITARY COMPLEX. THIS MODEST CONCEPT IS DICTATED BY LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT THIS PURPOSE.

3. PRICE OF 78 MILLION DOLLARS QUOTED REFTEL B APPEARS TO BE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT GOT CONTEMPLATES INVESTING IN SAM DETERRENT ON ASSUMPTION THAT FMS CREDIT WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY OF GOT'S UNDERTAKING TRANSACTION MUCH OF WHOSE FINANCING DEPENDS ON ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION. INCIDENTALLY, DOES PACKAGE FIGURE OF 78 MILLION DOLLARS INCLUDE TRAINING AND ACCESSORIAL CHARGES?

4. OUR USE OF EXPRESSION "INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE" RELATES TO PROVISION IN TUNISIAN AUGMENTATION PLAN FOR TYING SAME DEFENSE IN WITH RADAR WARNING NET AND INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT. OF THESE THERE ELEMENTS, THE SAME DEFENSE HAS THE TOP PRIORITY WITH THE OTHER TWO ELEMENTS TO BE INTEGRATED AS ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

5. CONCUR IN SUGGESTION CONTAINED REFTEL B THAT INVITATION FOR MOD KHEFACHA TO VISIT UNITED STATES BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION BRIEFING TEAM'S VISIT. AS MATTER OF CLARIFICATION, KHEFACHA HAS NOT BEEN TENDERED AN EARLIER INVITATION ALTHOUGH MINISTER OF STATE TO MOD, BENNOR SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR KHEFACHA TO VISIT US. FYI KHEFACHA WAS NOMINATED FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY VIP PROGRAM BUT DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT. END FYI.
SEELYE

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